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## FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

The tempest of the 23d of September, which caused so much injury in Connecticut, Rhode-Island, and Massachusetts, has been fully described in all the newspapers; but its violence was so remarkable, that it may be interesting to record an epitome of these accounts in this Journal. The months of August and September, have this year produced repeated hurricanes, and more extensive disasters at sea, than have happened for upwards of thirty years. Many of the Islands in the West Indies have been visited by them, and a great number of vessels lost, particularly at Martinique and St. Bartholomews, which latter Island has encountered two of them. At sea the whole extent from the West Indies along the Gulf stream to the banks of Newfoundland, has been swept by successive gales. The shore of the United States has experienced several fresh gales, but only two that have done much damage; one on the coast of North Carolina on the 3d of September, in which many vessels were driven on shore, and many buildings unroofed or blown down; the effects of this did not extend beyond the sea coast of that state; the other, which happened on the 23d of September, was more violent and destructive.

This may be described as the Equinoctial gale, terminated by a hurricane. Its violence extended over a space of eighty or ninety miles square, and was felt in a south east direction at sea to an uncertain distance. During the greatest violence of the gale from the east to south-east in this district, the wind was north and north-west, at Philadelphia, moderate, and the weather mild. At New-York they had a north-east gale of wind, of no greater violence than is usual at the Equinox, and no important injury was received. At Boston, there was on Friday, the 22d of September, a strong gale from the north east, which increased in violence on the next day, the wind changing to the east and blowing till about eleven o'clock, when it shifted to the south east, and bore a hurricane character, of great fury, for about two hours. Between one and two o'clock it came to the southwest, and the afternoon was quite mild and pleasant, and the atmosphere pure, clear, and calm.

The strength of the wind, and its tornado character, was principally felt over the range of country between New-London and Newburyport, and its greatest intensity between Rhode Island, and Worcester in Massachusetts. The greatest injury was suffered by some towns on the south shore of Massachusetts, on Rhode Island, Stonington and Providence. This injury was occasioned by the great rise of the tide, which drove the vessels on shore, forced them against dwelling and ware houses situated near the edge of the water, and washed away and destroyed many buildings, and damaged much valuable merchandize. Providence suffered most, and even the lowest estimate of their loss, which was at first greatly exaggerated, would have made the storm a very serious calamity to the town. In Boston the damage was in no particular case very considerable, and this was owing to the circumstance of the gale abating two hours before high water, which saved the warehouses in the lower parts of the town from destruction. The loss of lives was comparatively small, though in some cases very distressing, as in one instance of an individual who witnessed his wife and children perishing before his eyes, without the possibility of saving them. About twenty persons were drowned or killed, by the falling of buildings in different places. It fortunately occurred in the day time; hundreds would have been destroyed, if it had taken place by night. Its ravages in the country, were felt in the total or partial destruction of buildings, and the tearing up of trees. In the district before mentioned hardly an individual escaped from some injury in this way.

The air was hot and suffocating at intervals during the time that the wind came from the south and south-east, the atmosphere was filled with the salt water which was taken up and dispersed into mist by the force of the wind. This salt mist was left upon objects at a distance of forty miles from the sea, so as to be perceptible to the taste. Large numbers of gulls and sea birds were also carried to the same distance. And it was said, in one place, that an immense flock of white headed Eagles and Hen Hawks, amounting to thousands, passed over towards the westward, the *day preceding* the hurricane. At New-London the brooks and springs were turned brackish for a day or two, and some of the wells dry during the gale. The leaves of the trees faded,

perhaps from the joint effects of the friction, and the salt mist, and had the same appearance as if scorched by the fire. Some of the earlier kinds, such as the willows, lilacs, &c. have since put out a new set of leaves. The violence of the wind may be appreciated from its having entirely dismantled vessels as they lay at anchor, with their sails furled, and from its havock among the trees. Upwards of twenty elms, in Boston alone, some of which were three feet in diameter at five feet from their roots, were torn entirely out of the ground. It is worthy of remark, that every one of these were of the European species. Not a single American elm was started, though many of their branches were twisted off. Out of a whole row on the western edge of the common, all the American, but only a single European elm, escaped. As our elm is in itself a much handsomer tree, and is so much stronger in its hold on the earth from the wide spread of its roots, it is perhaps expedient to give it the preference in all plantations. The American elm however is subject to having its foliage destroyed by worms, which do not attack the other species.

Though the gale was so severe and mischievous at Boston, it did little damage at Salem. The latter town had previously experienced a serious disasters in a hail storm, on the first of August, which in the course *ten minutes* broke 130,000 panes of glass. The season has in other respects been remarkable. The month of July was hotter and drier than it had been known to be for twenty-five years; and the months of August and September, an almost constant succession of cloudy and wet weather, accompanied with east and north-east winds; while at a short distance from the coast, and over the whole Atlantick, the winds have been almost without interruption westerly.

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

*On the pleasure derived from witnessing scenes of distress.*

We often derive pleasure from scenes of distress, both in real life and in the works of fiction. It is the object of the following remarks to state some of the evidence of the fact, and to explain the cause.